(a) and (b) There are five Districts/ Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) in Chhattisgarh. The dates and years of their establishment are as under:-

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ( i) | Rajnandgaon | — | 21.8.1989 |
| (ii) | Durg | — | 1.4.1988 |
| (iii) | Raipur | — | 1.11.1956 |
| (iv) | Bilaspur | — | 1.11.1956 |
| (v) | Raigarh | — | April 1989 (shifted to Jashpur on 7.5.2005) |

(c)Three Ex-servicemen have been given assistance for self-employment under SEMFEX- II Scheme - two form Raipur and one from Bilaspur. Employment provided to Ex-sevicemen through District/ Zila Welfare Officers in last three years is as given below:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | Raipur | — | 21 |
| (ii) | Durg | — | 62 |
| (iii) | Bilaspur | — | 24 |
| (iv) | Rajnandgaon | — | 11 |
| (v) | Raigarh | — | 16 |

(d) Assistance provided by District/Zila Welfare Office of Raigarh in last three years is as under:-

| | **Year** | **Financial assistance** | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | 2002 | 1 Case | — | Rs. 5,000/- |
| (ii) | 2003 | 3 Case | — | Rs. 13,000/- |
| (iii) | 2004 | 5 Case | — | Rs. 17,000/- |

**Observance of 2006 as Ex-servicemen year**

2383. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recognition of the services rendered by the Armed Forces for maintenance of national soverignty and Integrity during Kargil war, culminating in 'Operation Vijay' and 'Operation Parakram' and in fighting the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government propose to observe the year 2006 as the 'Ex-Servicemen Year'.,

(b) if so, the high-lights of such observance; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at the moment.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Kaveri engine For LCA**

2384. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is looking for a global technical partner to develop Kaveri engine for the Lighter Combat Aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has spent Rs. 1300 crores on engine project;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the engine will be istalled on LCA only by 2012; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had undertaken development of Kaveri engine to meet the propulsion needs of LCA project. During Aero India 2005 number of manufacturers displayed engine technology. In order to expedite the Kaveri engine development, DRDO has explored the possibility of partnership with other leading manufacturers. Expressions of Interest have been sought from all reputed military engine manufacturers to assess the level of interest in such a proposal.

(c) Gas Turbine Research Establishment, Bangalore a laboratory of DRDO has spent Rs. 1159 crore on Kaveri engine till June 2005.